



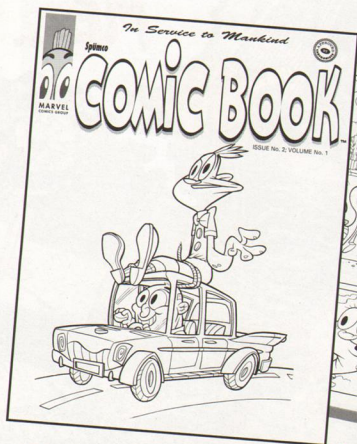
WELCOME TO THE  
LITTLE SHOP OF  
HORRORS  
#1 (Of 3)  
\$2.50 US/\$3.50 CAN

# WELCOME TO the LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS™



J.R. WILLIAMS \* GENE FAMA \* KILIAN PLUNKETT

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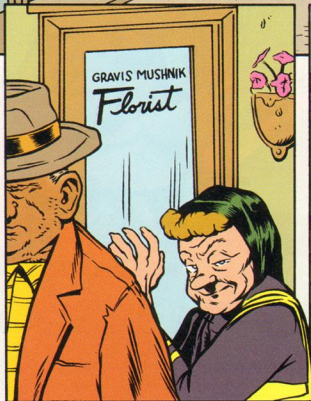
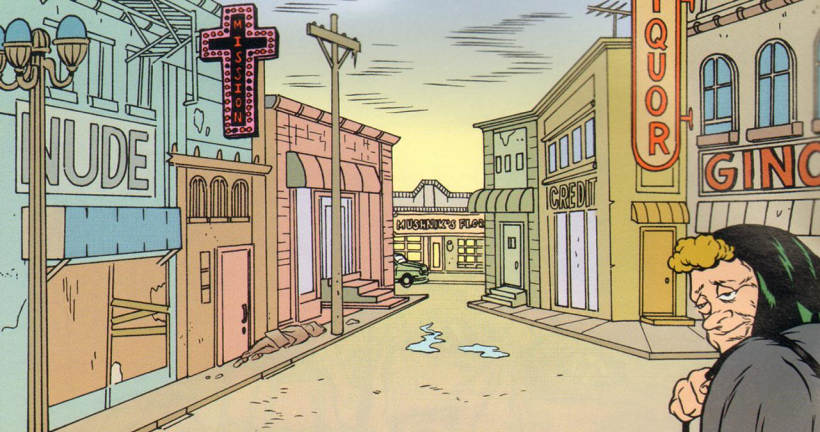


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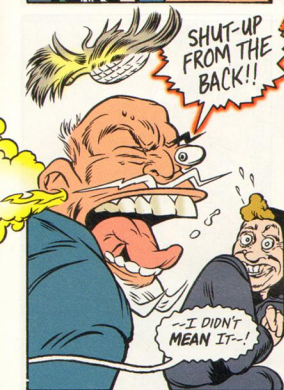
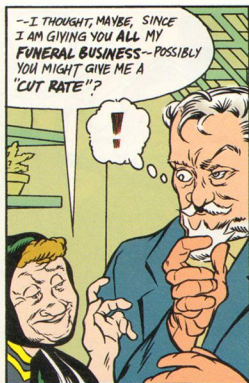
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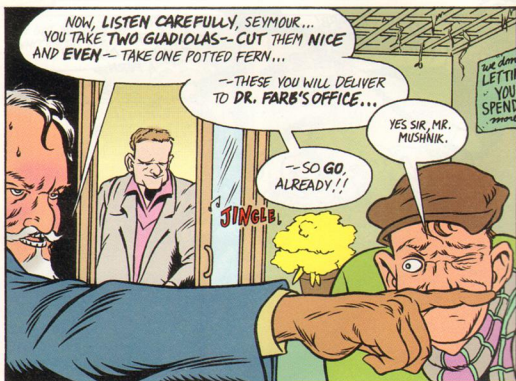
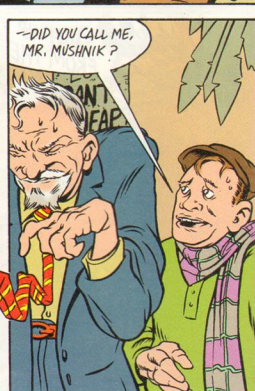
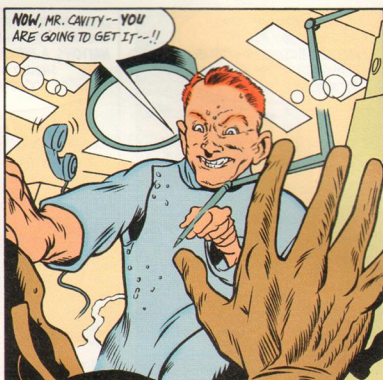




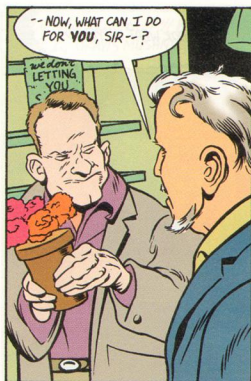










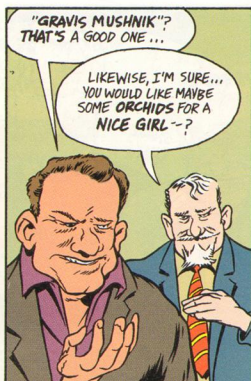


-- NOW, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR--?



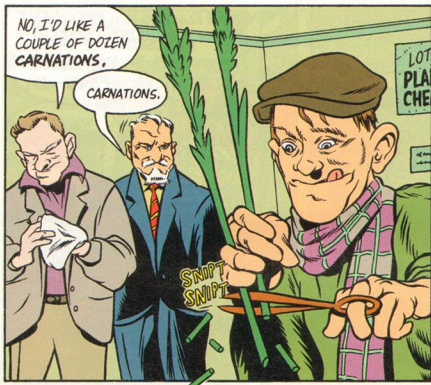
MY NAME IS BURSON FOUCH.

EXCELLENT! I AM GRAVIS MUSHNIK.



"GRAVIS MUSHNIK"? THAT'S A GOOD ONE...

LIKEWISE, I'M SURE... YOU WOULD LIKE MAYBE SOME ORCHIDS FOR A NICE GIRL--?



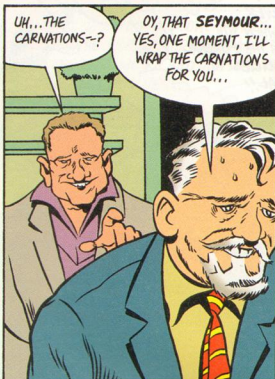
NO, I'D LIKE A COUPLE OF DOZEN CARNATIONS.

CARNATIONS.

SNIP SNIP

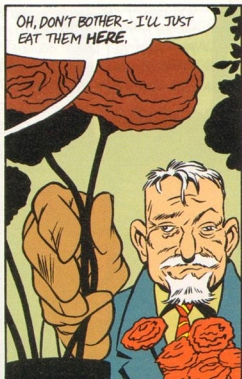


YES, CARNATIONS...

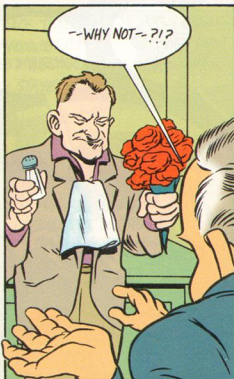


UH...THE CARNATIONS--?

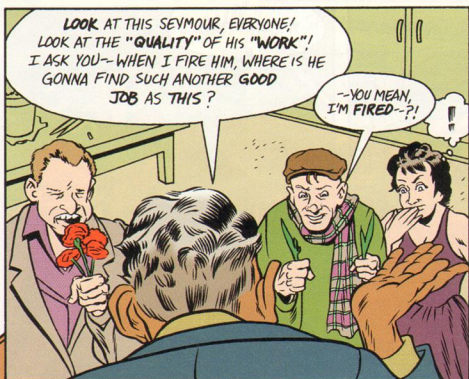
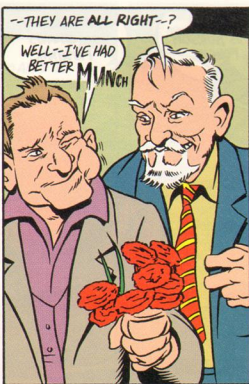
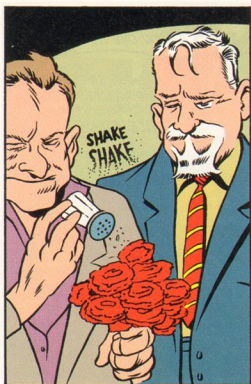
OY, THAT SEYMOUR... YES, ONE MOMENT, I'LL WRAP THE CARNATIONS FOR YOU...



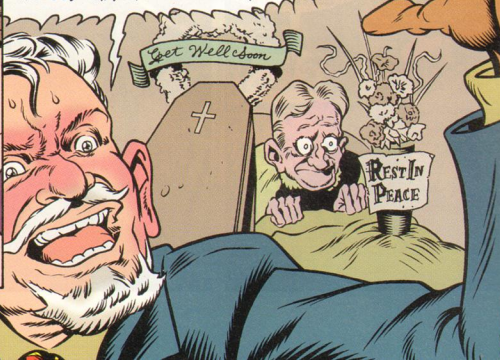
OH, DON'T BOTHER-- I'LL JUST EAT THEM HERE.



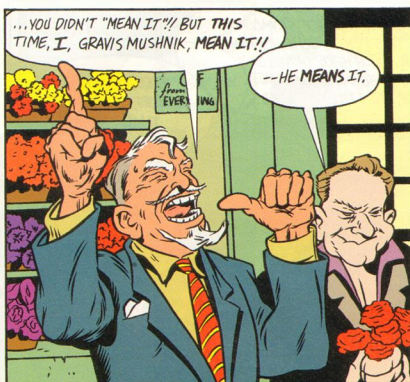
--WHY NOT--?!?



YOU DIDN'T "MEAN IT"... YOU NEVER "MEAN IT"! YOU DIDN'T "MEAN IT" WHEN YOU PUT THE "GET WELL" BOUQUET IN THE FUNERAL PARLOR, AND SENT THE BLACK LILIES TO THE OLD LADY IN THE HOSPITAL!!

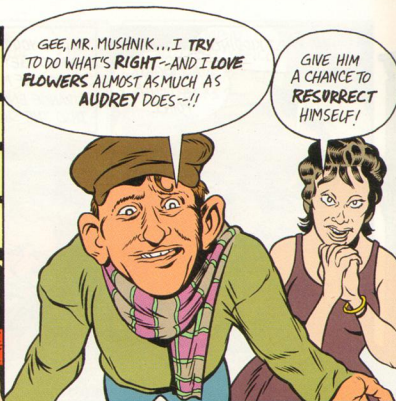






...YOU DIDN'T "MEAN IT"!! BUT THIS TIME, I, GRAVIS MUSHNIK, MEAN IT!!

--HE MEANS IT.



GEE, MR. MUSHNIK...I TRY TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT--AND I LOVE FLOWERS ALMOST AS MUCH AS AUDREY DOES--!!

GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO RESURRECT HIMSELF!



--AND I'M WORKING ON A SPECIAL SURPRISE, JUST FOR YOU...AT HOME, I'M GROWIN' A PLANT LIKE NOBODY'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!!

EXCELLENT.  
GET OUT.



WAIT A MINUTE,...IF HE'S REALLY GOT SOME NEW KINDA PLANT, YOU OUGHTA LOOK AT IT.



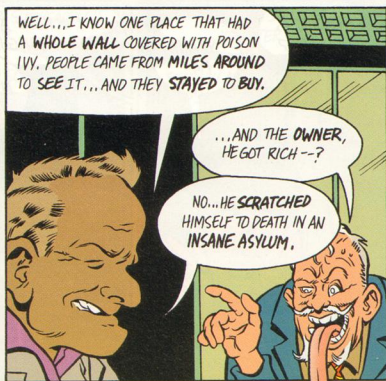
MR. FOUCH...I GOT ONE LOUSY FLOWER SHOP ON SKID ROW--I CAN'T EVEN SELL WHAT PLANTS I ALREADY GOT--SO, I SHOULD BE BRINGING MORE PLANTS INTO MY STORE--?

NAH, YOU DON'T GET ME--



--LOOK, I'VE EATEN IN FLOWER SHOPS ALL OVER THE WORLD,...AND THE PLACES THAT HAVE THE MOST WEIRD AND UNUSUAL PLANTS DO THE BEST BUSINESS...

EXPLAIN ME MORE...



WELL...I KNOW ONE PLACE THAT HAD A WHOLE WALL COVERED WITH POISON IVY. PEOPLE CAME FROM MILES AROUND TO SEE IT...AND THEY STAYED TO BUY.

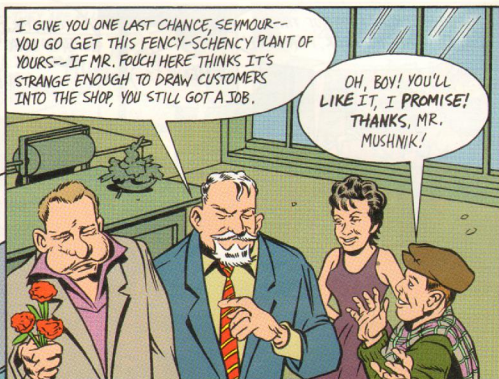
...AND THE OWNER, HE GOT RICH--?

NO...HE SCRATCHED HIMSELF TO DEATH IN AN INSANE ASYLUM.



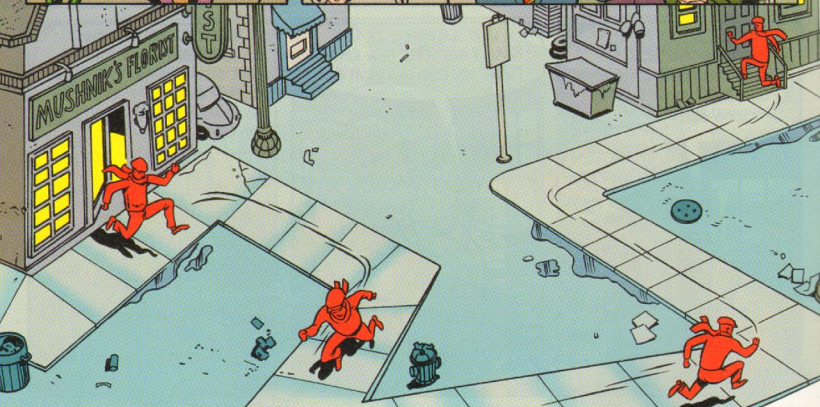
HEH--JUST KIDDING.

ALL RIGHT...  
I GET THE  
POINT.



I GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE, SEYMOUR--  
YOU GO GET THIS FENCY-SCHENCY PLANT OF  
YOURS-- IF MR. FOUCH HERE THINKS IT'S  
STRANGE ENOUGH TO DRAW CUSTOMERS  
INTO THE SHOP, YOU STILL GOT A JOB.

OH, BOY! YOU'LL  
LIKE IT, I PROMISE!  
THANKS, MR.  
MUSHNIK!



SEYMOUR, IS  
THAT YOU?

YEAH,  
MA!



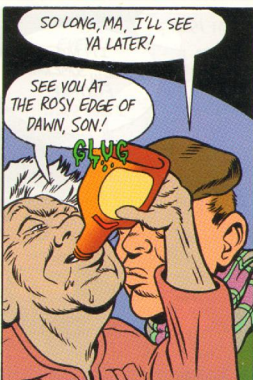
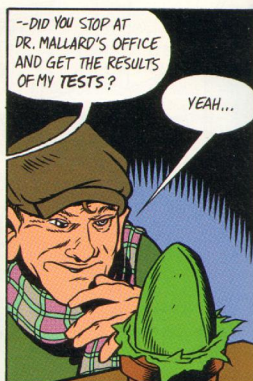
--GET IN HERE AND LOOK  
AT MY TONGUE!

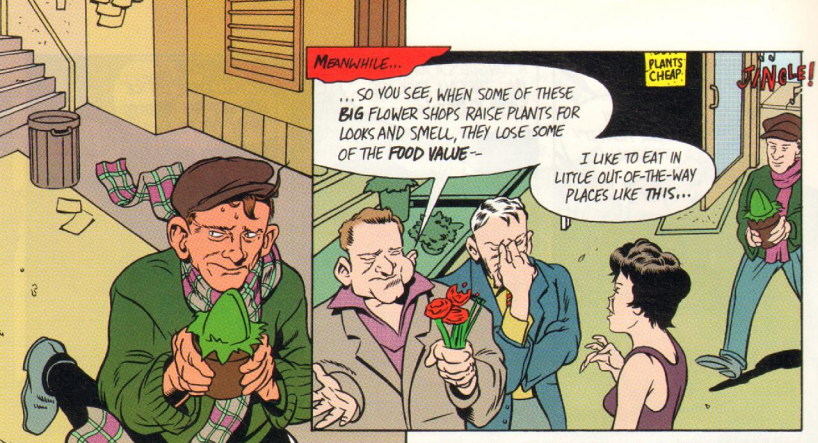
AW, MA-- I  
ALREADY SEEN  
YOUR TONGUE!



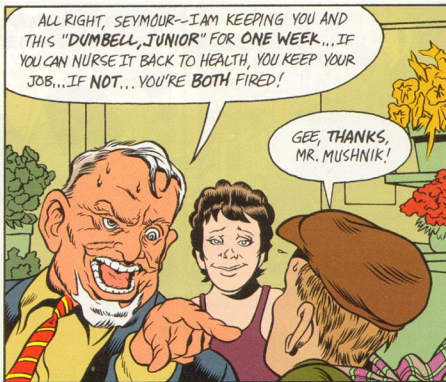
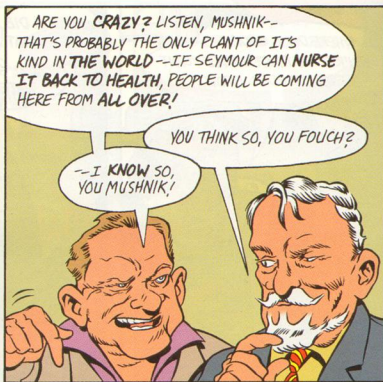
AIN'T YOU GOT NO SYMPATHY  
FOR YOUR POOR MOTHER,  
WHO'S GOT ONE FOOT IN  
THE GRAVE?



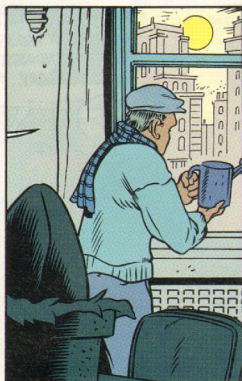








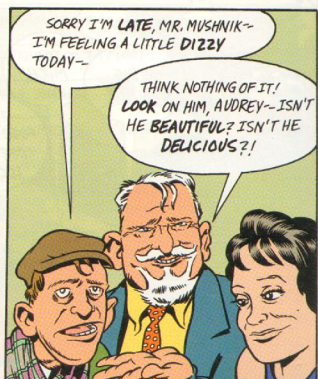
THAT EVENING...

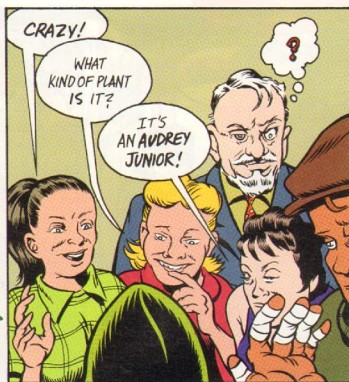
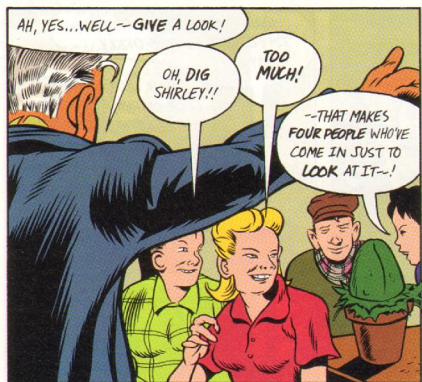
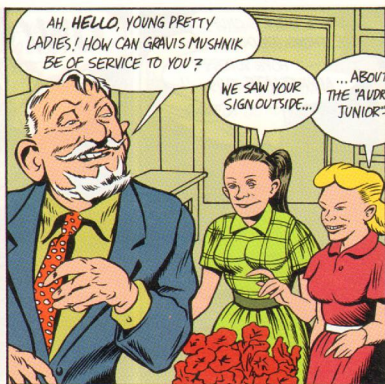
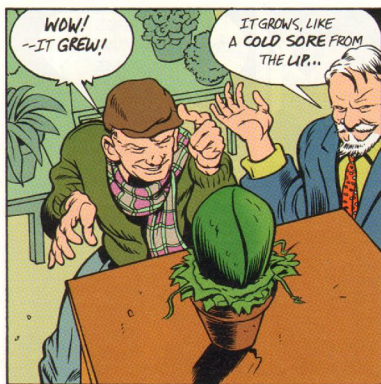




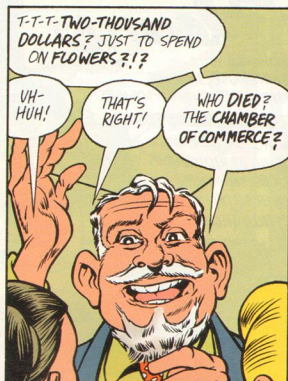
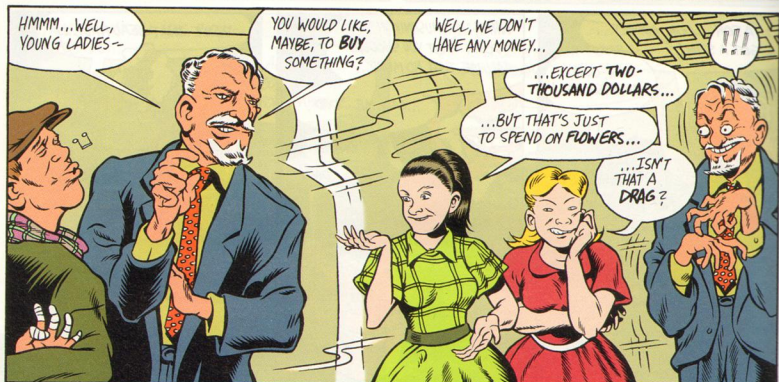
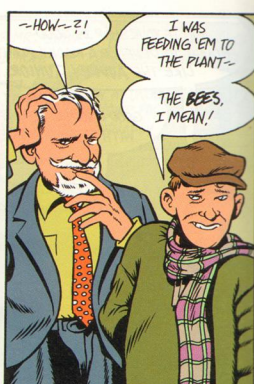
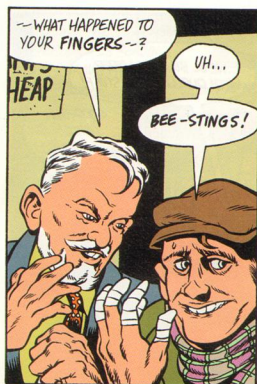


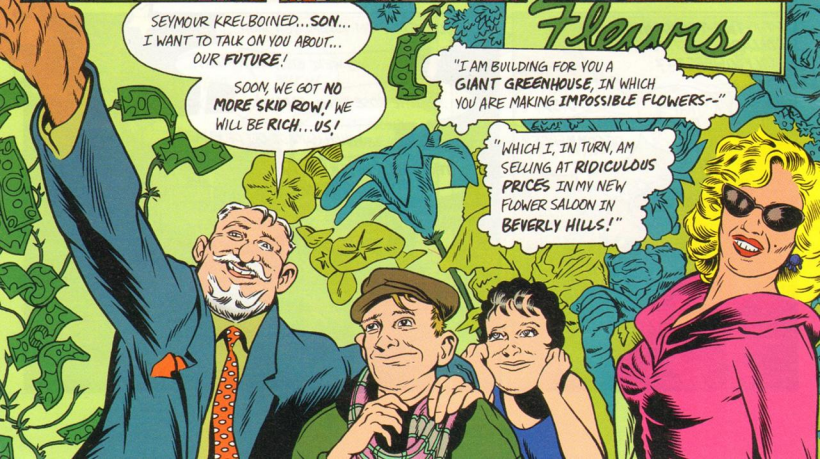
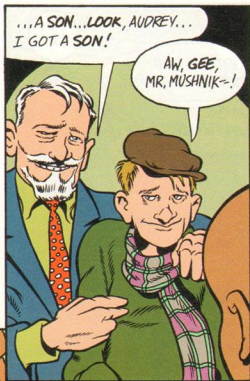
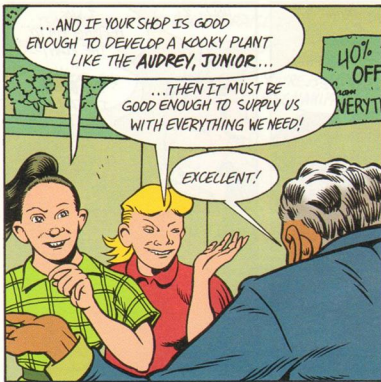
THE NEXT MORNING



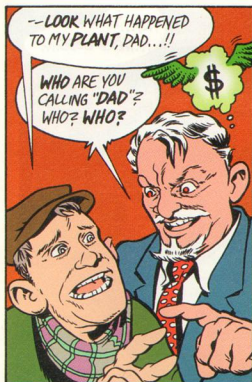
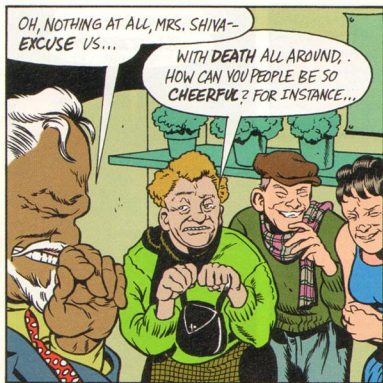
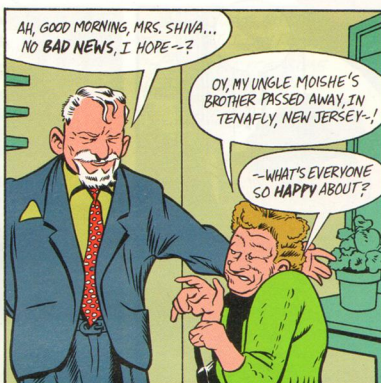
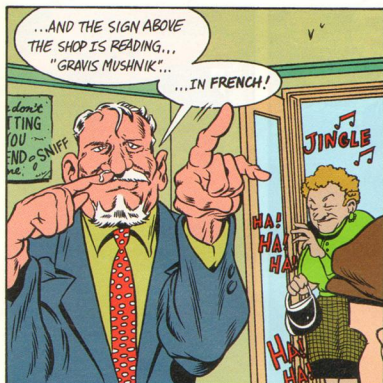




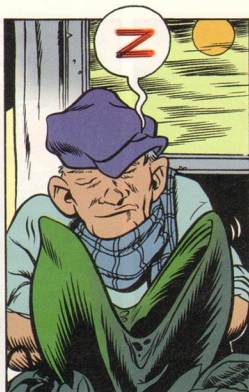




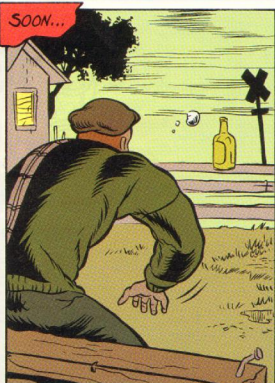




HAT NIGHT...

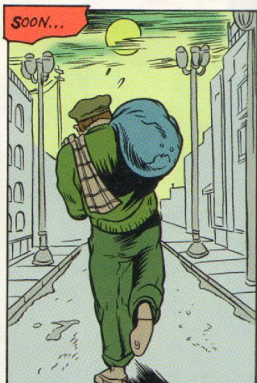
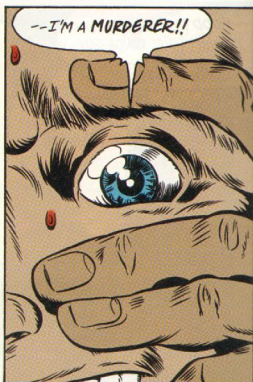


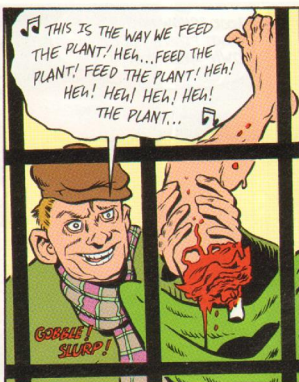
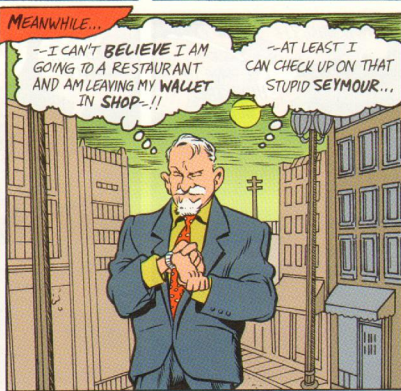












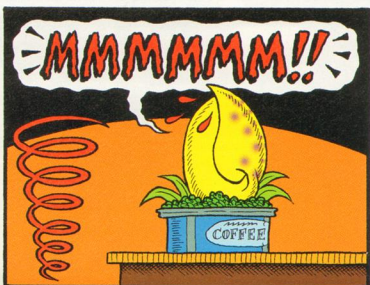
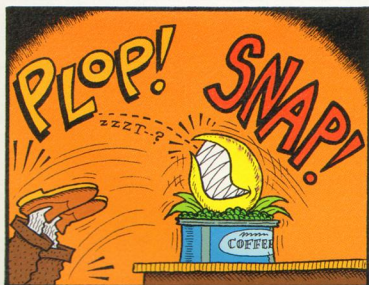
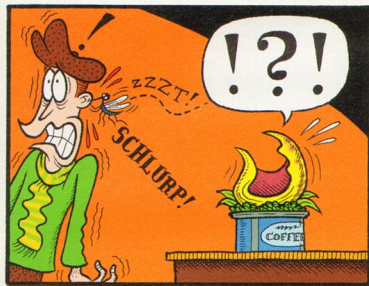
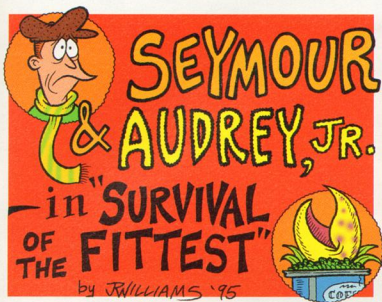




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*too much movie breeds  
mayhem in the streets.*

*CINÉMA VÉRITÉ!*



# MONSTER MAGNET



**Dopes To Infinity** the new album

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Produced by Dave Wyndorf with Steve Rosenthal at the Magic Shop, N.Y.C.

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT

# WELCOME TO the LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

### Putting together a comic book

like *Welcome to the Little Shop of Horrors* involves the work of many talents. Step one is hiring a writer, and in this case, the writer has to be funny — a surprisingly rare quality in comic book writers.

appear all over the place (*Heavy Metal*, *Rip Off Comix*, *Real Stuff*, *Buzzard*, *The Duplex Planet Illustrated*, etc.) The guy is prolific, possessed of a hard-core puritan work-ethic, and personally very low-key. If you met him just once, you'd never guess he was so funny, and you certainly wouldn't guess he plays guitar in a band called the Sin

managing corporate pension plan portfolios, sits down and draws funnybooks. Gene grew up in Chicago and studied art in New York. He published some work in *Psycho Comics* and *Pure Entertainment Quarterly* in 1980, then laid off comics for a while. Then as the '90s dawned, he slowly got into it again, doing small jobs for Vertigo and Fantagraphics (most notably in the comic *Real Stuff*).

Gene gets the scripts from J.R., and then adds his own creative spin on the story. He plays with "camera" angles and page layout, and has given the characters the specific look with which we now identify them. In a few cases, Gene has come up with good suggestions for changing dialogue to fit something he wants to draw. And this is just what I want — the artists are, after all, collaborating with the writer to tell the story.

Once Gene has finished the pencils, they are lettered by Nick Craine, a young Canadian letterer who is also an accomplished comic book creator in his own right (see his excellent *Dance Me Outside* graphic novel). Nick letters the pages and then they are sent to the inker.

The inker in this case is Dean Rohrer, a New Jersey cartoonist and hard-core follower of the EC school of comics art. Dean primarily works as an illustrator for book publishers, but his love of comics has gradually brought him into the comics world over the past few years, doing comic stories in *The Duplex Planet Illustrated* and work for Mirage Studios and Dark Horse Comics.

### step 1



J.R. Williams  
writes

J.R. Williams is a brilliant cartoonist in his own right who had never actually written a comic book for someone else to draw. But we were convinced on the basis of his own work that he was the right guy for the job. J.R. has been drawing comics for years, and recently made the jump to being a full-time cartoonist. Prior to that, he was an animator at Will Vinton Studios (remember the California Raisins?) in Portland, Oregon.

J.R. now lives in Seattle, Washington, where he draws his ongoing comic *Crap* for Fantagraphics Books, and has done a bunch of other solo books (*Bummer*, *Fun House*, *Bad Boys*, *Bad Comics*) and has had stories

Alley Cats.

Because J.R. hadn't written comics for other artists before, I suggested he "write" the script by doing very rough drawings of all the action and dialogue. This method worked great. His script was such a lively piece of cartooning that we could have almost printed it as is. But since we wanted much more realistic and detailed type of art, we called in Gene Fama to pencil *Welcome to the Little Shop of Horrors*.

Gene has one of the most unusual backgrounds of any artist in comics. He only moonlights at drawing comics. His day job is... investment banker! Gene Fama comes home after a hard day of



## step 2

Gene Fama  
pencils



Dean takes the penciled and lettered pages and inking them, gives the figures and backgrounds the weight and solidity needed. Inking might seem to the layman to be a rather mechanical job of tracing over the penciler's lines. But inkers are the craftsmen who turn a comic into a finished work. A good inker is a master of the extremely demanding art of drawing with a paintbrush, as well as being proficient in various types of pens.

Finally, it goes to the colorist. For this job, we hired Cary Porter, a Portland sculptor and colorist who has done a lot of coloring for Dark Horse Comics. He provided us with a color guide, which is a hand-colored photocopy of every page with color codes. This color guide and the black and white artwork are given to a computer coloring firm (in this case, Jamison Services), where the line art is electronically scanned into a computer, and trained computer colorists, using the color guide, fill in the colors on screen.

And I'd be very negligent if I didn't mention our cover painter Kilian Plunkett. Kilian is deep in a huge *Star Wars* comic book project right now, but he's well known for his work on *Aliens: Labyrinth* and his many covers for Dark Horse.

## step 3

Gene Fama  
inks



Kilian was born in Ireland and now lives in an apartment in rainy downtown Portland, where on the rare clear day he can see Mount St. Helens.

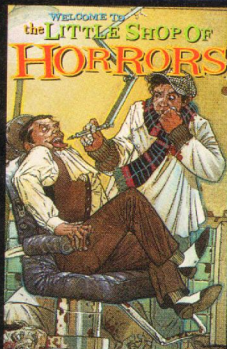
Whew, a lot of labor went into *Welcome to the Little Shop of*

*Horrors*! We hope you liked it. Next month, we'll tell you a little about the original Roger Corman movie on which this comic is based. See you then!

—Robert Boyd

## step 4

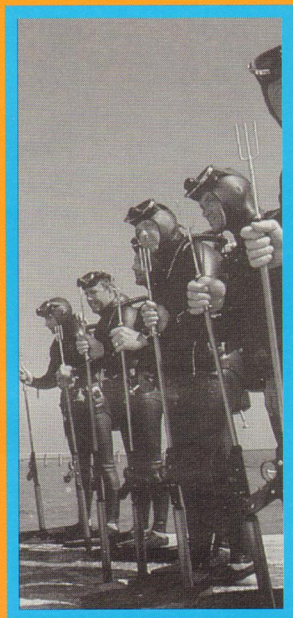
Cary Porter  
colors



Next issue: Seymour visits the sadistic dentist, Dr. Farb!

# CHOKEBORE

NEW ALBUM



ANYTHING NEAR WATER

ON AMPHETAMINE REPTILE



# COSMIC SIGNALS



**May comics from Roger Corman's Cosmic Comics:**

***Welcome To The Little Shop Of Horrors #1***

***Death Race 2020 #2***

***Bram Stoker's Burial of the Rats #2***

**Wow** — it's month two of the inevitable takeover of your mind by Roger Corman's Cosmic Comics, and we hope you're enjoying every brain-sucking second of it! From time to time, we intend to introduce you to some of our inmates — er, staff, and since my birthday's in May, I'll start off.

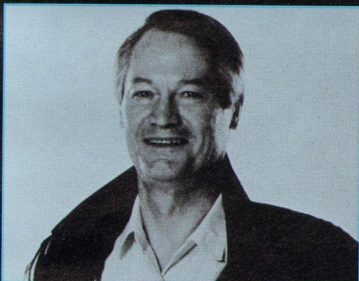


**ROBERT BOYD** by Gene Fama

Born in Australia in 1963. Grew up in Houston, Texas. Started reading comics in 7th grade. Early favorite comics were *Howard the Duck*, *Daredevil*, and *Heavy Metal*. Drew and self-published photocopied comics. Some titles were *Super Ghost*, *Glue Guy*, and *Poseidon the Powerful*. Lost interest in

comics for a while. Reintroduced to them in college. Studied art. Read comics like *American Flagg!*, *Love & Rockets*, *Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers*, *V for Vendetta*. Got a job and worked in Africa, Europe, South America. Dug way-out foreign comics like (*A Suivre*), *El Vibora*, and *Fierro*. Started reading *R4W* and other artsy-fartsy comics. Came back to America. Wrote some articles about comics for *The Comics Journal*. (Still write a column for them occasionally.) Got a job with Fantagraphics. Edited a bunch of books and apprenticed in the comics biz. Moved to Dark Horse and learned more about making comics. Got the call from Roger Corman. Moved to Hollywood. The rest is history!

—Robert Boyd



Our Founder **ROGER CORMAN**

**B**y the time you read this, we'll have had our first Cosmic Comics event — a signing at the legendary Golden Apple store in Los Angeles. Paul Bartel, Mary Woronov, and the man himself, Roger Corman signed comics and movie stills for adoring fans. If you're ever in L.A., check out Golden Apple at 7711 Melrose in Hollywood — one of the best comic stores anywhere!

This month, we're trying to set up signings in Oregon, and Washington — so if you live there, be on the lookout!

## ON THE HORIZON —

Check out our newest art flick *Attack of the 60 Foot Centertoid* starring J.J. North. It lands in your local video store in June!

## COMICS COMING NEXT FALL!

***Caged Heat 3000*** — Women in prison in the future. What more do you need?



***Rock 'n' Roll High School*** — The best rock comic ever.

Here's a sneak preview from *Caged Heat 3000*, with art by Matt Thompson and Dan Schaeffer.

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